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The past four years as a pharmacy student have been filled with excitement and also eagerness to be a practicing pharmacist while continuing my pharmacy advocacy. I have witnessed the tremendous value of pharmacists. Recently, in the elevator, a patient saw my RxA pharmacy student nametag and expressed: “Awesome, you’re a pharmacy student. I love my pharmacist, he helps me so much.” I felt a great sense of pride in our profession. This was a great feeling that boosted my enthusiasm. I believe pharmacy advocacy is crucial for patients to benefit from pharmacy care amidst our healthcare system challenges.

My pharmacy advocacy is through my research, technology innovation, and collaborations in Alberta, Canada, and beyond. Notably, in the [IGNITE photovoice study](#), we uncovered and highlighted the incredible work of pharmacists during the COVID-19 pandemic through interviews and analyzing photos from Alberta pharmacists. Our results demonstrated the leadership of pharmacists in public health, information, and medication management. I co-founded the [Images of Pharmacy Practice website](#) which has over 700 images of pharmacy practice that accurately portray modern pharmacy practice at its full scope to challenge and correct the inaccurate perceptions of pharmacists. The photos have been used around the world to promote the role of pharmacists. In Canada, I advocated for [fair remuneration for pharmacists](#) managing hypertension. Combining research and advocacy is a robust tool to propel the profession forward.

Through technology innovation, at [Medi-scribe](#), I supported the development and evaluation of the software. Our software provides pharmacists with more time with patients. Our team brought the profession of pharmacy to the forefront of Alberta’s technology innovation landscape. We were awarded the 2023 Technology Alberta ASTech Award finalists as the [Innovation of the Year](#) and Change Makers. Medi-scribe has been featured by the [Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy](#) and news outlets ([Livewire Calgary](#), [CBC Radio](#)). We demonstrated the capability of pharmacists to invent solutions that empower other pharmacists and improve patient care.

Lastly, I have enjoyed collaboration in advocacy with my pharmacy colleagues. This started in my first year through joining the pharmacy student advocacy (SAF-Pharm) committee. There, I learned about advocacy from meetings with RxA. With the faculty, I hosted exchange students from Japan and introduced them to Canadian pharmacy practice. Both sides exchanged good conversations on the role of pharmacists. Additionally, as a council member of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI), I created a new website for Canadian pharmacy students to access resources and promotions. I chaired a team of 20 students from across Canada to create online health initiatives and education on sun safety and common infections to share with the public. The power of collaboration are the ideas that turn into tangible improvements for our profession.

In a few months, I will be a practicing pharmacist. Even though my official title will change from pharmacy student to practicing pharmacist, my role as a pharmacy advocate remains. My plans are to continue the aforementioned three areas to contribute to pharmacy advocacy. I look forward to meeting new colleagues and patients which will generate new perspectives and collaborations. As my patient care experience broadens, I will understand new ways and areas to advocate for.

The future of pharmacy is bright. I am excited and I hope you will join as well.